GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1680
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
ALZHEIMER DISEASE
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Institute for Alzheimer disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of patients suffering from this disease in the country at present, State-wise;

(d) whether any awareness programme has been launched with regard to this disease; and

(e) if so, the names of the agencies/organizations involved alongwith the financial assistance provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) The need for establishing a National Institute in India for Alzheimer Disease is not being felt at present as the same is being viewed in the larger context of problems of older people with physical and mental disability. The care requirement of dementiated patients in India are usually met by the family and the programmes for older population will also cover patients with Alzheimers Disease as most of them are older persons. The epidemiology of Alzheimer`s Disease and other dementias in India is not well studied or evaluated in different parts of the country.

(c), (d) and (e). There is no actual data available about the prevalence of disease country-wise or state-wise. However, based on the limited epidemiological studies it is clear that the prevalence of Alzheimer`s disease and other dementias in those above 60 years is 3-5%. Based on this it is estimated that over 3 million elderly people have Alzheimer and other forms of dementia in India. In the year 2000, Alzheimer`s and Related Disorders Society of India organised `National Dementia Awareness Week` starting from September 18-24. A TV programme on Alzheimer`s Disease is being telecast currently on DD I Channel under the popular progamme `Jeevan Rekha`. This programme is being anchored by one of the Faculty Members of AIIMS.